

From mimeographed sheets to internal newsletters with blue-ink pictures announcing birthdays, births and transfers, what is now known as the “Kentucky Law Enforcement” magazine has come a long way. Undoubtedly the only publication of its kind in the commonwealth and probably the country, this publication has followed Kentucky law enforcement on its long and successful journey of professionalization.

JUST GETTING STARTED

Humble beginnings birthed the concept for Kentucky’s first news magazine strictly geared at providing a gamut of information to the members of the criminal justice community. What at one time started as an internal newsletter for the Bureau of Training, grew into a newsletter for Kentucky’s law enforcement officers that provided information on training, class lists and announcements about new classes. Then, looking to galvanize the entire law enforcement community, in July 1997, the Department of Criminal Justice Training created the “FYI” newsletter.

“One of the things that was recommended by the command staff, chiefs and sheriffs was a more extensive newsletter that did not just cover DOCJT and Justice Cabinet issues, but acted as a typical state newsletter,” DOCJT Commissioner John Bizzack said of the beginning of the ‘FYI.’ “Departments could put something out to other departments ... and they could see what they were doing against other departments and gauge if they were even, ahead or behind. We’d throw in some national news, grant information and just a wider scope. So, the ‘FYI’ grew out of that to create something that was beyond an internal newsletter and more for the police community.”

Over the course of the “FYI’s” first few years, DOCJT received positive feedback from chiefs, sheriffs and agency heads across the state that this idea for getting more information out to Kentucky’s law enforcement was going somewhere, Bizzack recalled.

“But we needed more Kentucky law enforcement news, not Kentucky law enforcement announcements,” he said. “That germinated the idea that we should take this thing and evolve it into more of a magazine for Kentucky law enforcement.

“We needed people to coordinate each issue with something that was going on, or just happened or was about to happen, of general interest to literally 10,000 people,” Bizzack continued.

In the fall of 2001, the first issue of “Inside Information: Kentucky Law Enforcement News” was mailed out across the state.

“We decided this is not about DOCJT, but about DOCJT using its required mission to inform, train and expose Kentucky law enforcement to something that we can, within budget, periodically put out and have people contribute to,” Bizzack said. “It goes to elected officials to let them know what’s going on in the Kentucky law enforcement community and is interesting across the board from the guy who just got out of the academy, right up to the guy who is getting ready to retire, no matter what rank he is. That is a pretty broad scope.”

Daviess County Sheriff Keith Cain agreed.

“The magazine is a culmination of the needs and desires of law enforcement executives across the commonwealth who want their officers to know what the issues and trends are around the state,” Cain said. “It is important that they see and understand that from Pikeville to Paducah >>

SEPT. 11 ATTACKS

Hijacked jetliners hit the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon outside Washington. A fourth hijacked plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. The Federal Aviation Administration halted all flight operations at the nation’s airports for the first time in U.S. history. Hundreds of New York City firemen and policemen sent to rescue WTC workers were lost when the WTC Twin Towers collapsed.

▼ From the first six magazines produced, these covers represent magazines from August 2001 to May 2003. The magazine format was the culmination of years of newsletters and mailings adopted by DOCJT to effectively communicate with Kentucky’s law enforcement community.

